

REMARKS

I. General

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application. The rejections of record with respect to claims 1 and 13 were sustained in the Decision on Appeal. The rejections of record with respect to claims 2-6, and 14-18 were not sustained in the Decision on Appeal. Claims 7-12 and 19-24 were previously indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Applicant has cancelled claims 6 and 16 herein. Thus claims 1-5, 7-15, and 17-24 will remain pending after entry of the present amendment.

II. The Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 6, thereby presenting claim 6 as originally submitted in independent form. Accordingly, claim 6 has been cancelled. As the rejections of record with respect to claim 6 were not sustained by the Board, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 1, as amended, is allowable. The claims dependent from claim 1 are likewise asserted to be allowable.

Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1, thereby presenting claim 3 as originally submitted in independent form. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from amended claim 3. As the rejections of record with respect to claim 3 were not sustained by the Board, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 3, as amended, is allowable. Claim 4, dependent from claim 3, is likewise asserted to be allowable.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1, thereby presenting claim 7 as originally submitted in independent form. As claim 7 was indicated as allowable by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed February 23, 2005, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 7, as amended, is allowable. The claims dependent from claim 7 are likewise asserted to be allowable.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16, thereby presenting claim 16 as originally submitted in independent form. Accordingly, claim 16 has been cancelled.

As the rejections of record with respect to claim 16 were not sustained by the Board, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 13, as amended, is allowable. The claims dependent from claim 13 are likewise asserted to be allowable.

Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 13, thereby presenting claim 19 as originally submitted in independent form. As claim 19 and was indicated as allowably by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed February 23, 2005, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 19, as amended, is allowable. The claims dependent from claim 19 are likewise asserted to be allowable.

III. Summary

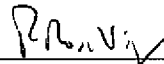
In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the claims be passed to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2025, under Order No. 10001428-1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office via electronic filing.

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Respectfully submitted,

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